

We need community people—business people—to support us in our efforts to elevate academic excellence and good character—to convey to the young that we value the qualities we pay lip-service to. We need businesspeople who can stimulate interest in career development and training. Students have heard it all before from teachers and counselors. They need to see it and hear it from the people who will be doing the hiring and firing.

And finally, we just need more adults who will spend time with these kids; kids who haven't had many caring adults in their lives. Someone to read to them, to listen to them read, to treat them like they are somebody.

I can't tell you how many people tell me, "I feel so sorry for those kids." Well, frankly, that's not good enough.

There is a revealing exchange between the great Englishman Samuel Johnson and his friend and biographer James Boswell in the greatest biography ever written. Boswell confesses, "I have often blamed myself for not feeling for others as sensibly as many say they do." Johnson replies, "Don't be duped by them anymore. You will find these very feeling people are not ready to do any good. They pay only by feeling."

He's right. When the young have grown to adulthood, they will not think kindly of those adults who have given them sympathy without help.

#### TRIBUTE TO HOLLI DUNAYER

##### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I proudly recognize the academic and personal achievements of Holli Dunayer of East Meadow, New York.

Holli is a spirited and dedicated woman who has triumphed through life's continual ups and downs.

Although Holli gave her all to the North Bellmore Hair Salon family business, she always wanted to contribute to the community. While managing the salon, Holli helped the neighborhood's homeless, organizing a benefit for the poor from her store.

But times were difficult for Holli. In the early 1990s, she lost her home, was divorced, and went on public assistance so she could care for her daughter, Samantha, then seven.

But Holli bounced back.

In 1996, she enrolled in Nassau Community College, where she received an Associate's Degree in sociology. Holli was awarded a partial scholarship to Adelphi University, where she received a Bachelor's Degree in social work last year. On Sunday, May 20th, 2001, Holli received a Master's Degree in social work from Adelphi University.

While Holli pursued her Master's Degree, she interned in my Hempstead District office. I was impressed by her commitment, and I hired her as a full-time legislative aide to handle education, IRS, grants and passports. I'm excited to have a second social worker on my staff.

Holli is a recipient of a \$5,000 Maurice Paprin Memorial Fellowship given to students who demonstrate commitment to social change through past or present work.

Holli calls her employment "poetic justice" since she has gone from the government taking care of her to being a government employee helping others in tough situations. Holli is proof that hard work and dedication is all you need to make your dreams come true.

I congratulate Holli and her daughter, Samantha, now 15, on their achievements and Holli's graduation.

I am honored to have her as a member of my staff and as my friend.

#### INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

##### HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), which was officially celebrated on Saturday, May 12, with hundreds of events across the country including one at Philadelphia Zoo.

International Migratory Bird Day celebrates the annual return of millions of birds from wintering habitats in Latin America and emphasizes that the continued enjoyment of these birds depends upon our actions as consumers, homeowners, and citizens. At least 200 species of birds migrate to, from and through Philadelphia each year.

In addition to the sheer enjoyment of watching them, migratory birds are important biological indicators of ecosystem health as well as sentinels for potential human health risks. Their populations are declining dramatically due to the destruction and degradation of their habitat throughout the Americas. Making small changes to some of our daily habits can contribute to the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats, as well as the planet's overall health.

One small change is drinking shade-grown coffee, which helps protect habitat for migratory birds. According to experts at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the way coffee is grown can have a direct effect on many of the birds we see in our neighborhoods each spring. Coffee farms or plantations that leave a canopy of shading trees ("shade-grown coffee") benefit migratory birds by providing habitat for their wintering grounds in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. The Wilson's warbler, scarlet tanager, northern oriole, indigo bunting, and wood thrush are among the dozens of migratory birds that spend part of their lives in the U.S. and that winter in the coffee-growing regions of Latin America.

Encouraging our local coffee shop or grocery store to carry shade-grown coffee is one way that each of us can make a difference. Another way is becoming more informed about migratory birds and the threats to their habitats through involvement in bird watching and other programs such as those at Philadelphia Zoo. The Zoo's involvement in avian conservation dates to before the opening of its original Bird House in 1916. More recently, scientists at Philadelphia Zoo have played a major role in the conservation of the American

bald eagle. Once on the brink of extinction due to the use of the pesticide DDT, which was banned in the 1970s, the bald eagle is a national conservation success story. The Zoo's pair of eagles was brought to the Zoo by wildlife rehabilitators when it

Today, America's First Zoo is building a new Avian Conservation Center that will feature state-of-the-art exhibitions and research facilities illustrating the diversity of the world's bird populations and their varied habitats. A central focus will be the challenges of conservation and preservation of rare species like Micronesian kingfishers, which are extinct in the wild. A key aim of the Center is to increase visitor awareness of avian conservation and issue a "conservation call to action."

We can also encourage innovative public-private partnerships such as the bird conservation initiative that was announced at the Zoo, when City and U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials met to formally recognize Philadelphia as the third Migratory Bird Treaty City in the nation.

I applaud the City of Philadelphia, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Philadelphia Zoo for their efforts to promote the conservation, habitat restoration, protection and hazard reduction of migratory birds, and all those organizations and individuals celebrating International Migratory Bird Day.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE COBRA COVERAGE EXTENSION AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2001

##### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my dear friend Representative JOE MOAKLEY (D-MA) to introduce the COBRA Coverage Extension and Affordability Act of 2001.

COBRA is the law that allows employees who face a change in their work status—and would otherwise lose their health insurance—to be able to continue that same coverage through their previous employer for a period of generally 18 months and sometimes as much as 36 months depending upon their particular situation. During this continuation period, employees must pay 102% of the cost of their current health insurance plan. That means they pay their previous employer share, their own share, and an extra 2% to make up for any administrative costs faced by their previous employer for maintaining their coverage.

COBRA was created in order to provide a bridge for workers to be able to maintain health benefits for themselves and their families. It has been in place since 1986 and is overdue for remodeling.

The bill we are offering today makes three key improvements to existing COBRA law:

(1) It extends the length of time that COBRA continuation benefits are available for all workers and their families from an average of 18 months to 5 years with workers paying 102% of premiums as required under current law.

(2) It creates a new category of COBRA continuation coverage for people age 55 and